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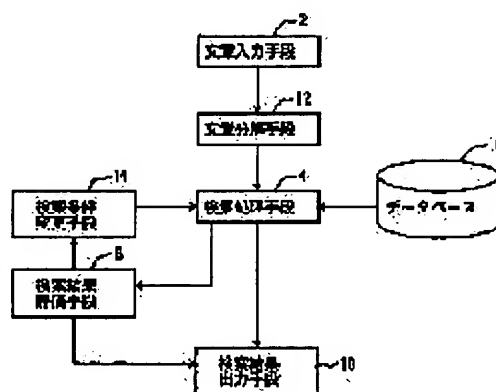
(54) INFORMATION RETRIEVAL DEVICE AND INFORMATION RETRIEVAL METHOD

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To retrieve information in which various notations or language expressions coexist without generating the omission of retrieval by extending a word or a phrase corresponding to retrieval conditions to a similar word or phrase and turning the similar word or phrase to new retrieval conditions.

SOLUTION: A sentence input means 2 inputs a sentence with the possibility of being included in the information retrieved from a database 6 and a sentence decomposing means 12 decomposes the supplied sentence into the set of key words corresponding to the retrieval conditions. Then, in the case that data obtained in the retrieval by a retrieval means 4 do not satisfy prescribed retrieval result conditions, a retrieval condition change means 14 extends the word or phrase corresponding to the retrieval conditions to the similar word or phrase, turns the similar word or phrase to the new retrieval conditions, changes the retrieval conditions and supplies the new retrieval conditions to a retrieval processing means 4.

Thus, the word provided with a meaning in close relation with the retrieval conditions and the phrase generally handled as a synonym are obtained as valid retrieved results.



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